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Santa came to town

Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

Santa Claus came to town Saturday during the Greater Fort Erie Santa Claus Parade. Hundreds of spectators lined the streets to watch the parade. For more photos see page 10.

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Sat. Dec 12 - The Three Kings EKIS Christmas Show
7:30pm
Tickets \$20
\$15 With non-perishable food donation

Thurs. Dec 31 - New Year's Eve
Vince Hardy Thomas
8:30pm - 12:30am

NO Fish Fry Dec 25 or Jan 1

Celebrating the holidays



Joseph Burd Special to The Times

Supporters of Community Living Fort Erie gathered together on Saturday night to celebrate the holidays during the organization's annual Christmas fundraiser. This year's theme was Christmas in Italy. The event offered live entertainment, dancing and plenty of fun. All of the proceeds raised from the event benefited Community Living Fort Erie.

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Councillors defer debate on EDTC memorandum of understanding

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie's councillors preferred not to discuss a memorandum of understanding between the Town of Fort Erie and the Economic Development and Tourism Corporation during last Monday night's council meeting. Instead, Mayor Wayne Redekop and Ward 1 Coun. George McDermott—who both represent the council on the EDTC board—will discuss the memorandum during an upcoming EDTC meeting. "I think there is an opportunity for discussion but (the memorandum) can't be changed without talking to the EDTC first," Redekop said.

Before concluding their term last year, outgoing councillors

asked staff to prepare a report that reviewed the memorandum of understanding between the Town and the EDTC. It was presented to the previous council at a meeting in September 2014.

The councillors of the day determined the new council should be given an opportunity to review the report and provide staff with further direction to make changes.

The EDTC was established in 1994 as a Town-run department to attract new investment in the community. In 2007, the EDTC became a separate entity from the Town.

Redekop said he was concerned about the way the EDTC is operated. But if there are changes to be made to the agreement, they must be agreed upon by the EDTC and the Town.

"It (the contract) is an agreement with no end date," Redekop said. "The memorandum of understanding is a precursor to an agreement. It's strange to operate on a memorandum of understanding for 20 years."

He also said the EDTC's minutes should be included in council's agenda for review. With the exception of Ward 5 Coun. Don Lubberts, all of the councillors voted to receive the report for information and to discuss it at a later date, with EDTC involved in the discussion.

"This is something that could become a problem in the future. The review of the memorandum of understanding needs to be ongoing," Lubberts said. "What we're doing is sweeping problems under the rug until a problem arises."

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Or

Email: icollee@forterie.on.ca

*** Nomination forms must be completed and submitted prior to

Friday, January 15th, 2016 to the above mentioned address,

Attention: Cathy Dennahower

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► POLICE BRIEFS

Tree branches touch power lines, cause sparks

Fire Chief Larry Coplen said a tree caught on fire after its branches touched a power line on Garrison Road last Wednesday afternoon near Garrison Road Public School.

The Fort Erie Fire Department was called to the scene at 4:10 p.m. to assist "and stayed as a precaution" until a crew from Canadian Niagara Power repaired the power line and trimmed the tree's branches.

"We were only there for maybe 20 minutes," Coplen said.

"The tree's branches touched high voltage lines and the branches began causing sparks and caught fire," Coplen said. "Small gusts of wind caused embers from the tree fire to blow around."

Niagara Regional Police also blocked a portion of the road from traffic while the work was completed. Coplen said no one was injured as a result of the fire.

Police searching for robbery suspect

Niagara Regional Police say a masked assailant robbed the Lucky 7 Convenience Store on Phlips Street in Fort Erie last Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

The suspect is described as caucasian, with a slender build and average height.

Police are looking for a blue coloured early 1990s sedan that was parked in the area where the incident occurred.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Allender at 905-871-2300 extension 2326.

► NEWS BRIEFS

Bake sale to benefit head injury association

The Head Injury Association is hosting a bake sale and clothing sale on Saturday, Nov. 28.

The sale will be held at the HIAFE, at 649 Niagara Blvd. between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Proceeds from the sale will support programs offered by the HIAFE. For more information call 905-871-7789.

Shop with Santa's elves

Youngsters can shop with Santa's elves during the 32nd Children's Shopping Day at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 32 Ixleyville St on Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children ages three to 13 can shop for gifts with the help of volunteers while parents enjoy refreshments and lunch.

Children's purchases are wrapped and ready for the tree. Crafts, gift baskets, jewellery, raffles and bake goods are available for adults. For more information call the church at 905-871-6704.



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The
Fort Erie Times

Michael Cressman Advertising Director
Peter Conradi Regional editor
Sarah Ferguson Editor

Point of View

Why Niagarans need a living wage

Lori Kleinsmith

Special to the Times

Conventional wisdom says that work should be a route out of poverty, but this is not always the case.

Indeed, data tells us the poverty rate for working-age Niagara residents between the ages of 18 to 64 is 13.5 per cent, based on the after-tax low income measure, while the poverty rate for Niagara children under the age of 18 is 16.9 per cent.

The stress of struggling to make ends meet each month leads to many impossible choices — such as paying the rent or putting healthy food on the table — and this takes a toll on people's well-being and quality of life.

In turn, this has an adverse effect on the health and wellness of our communities as a whole.

Moving Niagara's communities and its residents from poverty to prosperity requires a variety of policies and programs to be most effective. Affordable and accessible housing, child care and transportation are key elements.

We must also look at quality of jobs, including wages. A full-time, year-round minimum wage job is not enough to lift a family above the poverty line. So we must look at living wages as a critical component of wellness and prosperity.

The living wage sets a higher test than the minimum wage — it reflects what earners in a family need to be paid, based on the actual costs of living and being included in a specific community.

The living wage is calculated as an evidence-based hourly rate at which a household of two adults working full-time and raising two children can meet its basic household needs, once government transfers have been added to the family's income and deductions have been subtracted.

Included in this calculation are nutritious food, shelter, clothing, transportation, child care, non-OHIP medical insurance, continuing adult education and needs that allow for fuller participation in society, such as communication, family leisure outings, and local recreation.

In Canada, a living wage is primarily a voluntary commitment that can be made by public, private and not-for-profit sector employers to compensate directly employed

and contract-employed workers.

Living wages mean a better standard of living and quality of life for workers and their families.

Employers who pay a living wage are finding that higher wages lead to more productive employees, lower turnover and absenteeism, and increased workforce morale and satisfaction.

Living wage employers benefit from a positive reputation and corporate image.

The income earned by a family through a living wage is primarily spent at local businesses. In Niagara, this would include our grocery stores, farmers markets, pharmacies, clothing and shoe stores, gas stations, restaurants, local recreation and attractions, small businesses such as laundromats, book stores and hair dressers.

Living wages support local businesses and help communities to thrive.

Over the past decade, a growing number of Canadian communities have been engaging in the exercise of calculating what their local living wage is estimated to be.

In Ontario, more than 23 municipalities or regions have or are in the process of calculating their living wage.

Some communities, such as Hamilton, Windsor and Waterloo Region, have expanded their activities and created recognition programs for employers who pay and champion a living wage.

For more information on the living wage movement in Ontario, visit www.ontario-livingwage.ca.

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network's Living Wage working group will be releasing the 2015 Niagara region living wage calculation and report in early 2016.

The report will provide employers, workers and the community at large with an opportunity to better understand what the cost of living and inclusion is in Niagara's communities. It will discuss work, wages and compensation in a different way, and act as a guide for employers who want to ensure their workforce can adequately meet their family's basic household and community participation needs.

Visit the Network's website at www.wipe-outpoverty.ca for more information.

Lori Kleinsmith is a health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre and chairwoman of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network's Advocacy Committee.

Do You Remember?



A big thank you to museum volunteer Peter Griffiths for doing the legwork on last week's photo. He remembered taking this photo in 1973 when he worked for the newspaper. Using his reporter's instincts, he then tracked down the original clipping which was featured in an article about the second annual Rotary club charity auction. This auction was held at the site of the old Canadian Tire Store on Jarvis St. Canadian Tire had relocated to its new location on Central Ave., so the store was empty and available to hold the donated merchandise that was auctioned off on Friday May 4, 1973. Although he is not in this photo, many of you will remember Brownie Freiz, the auctioneer, a well-known personality in Fort Erie. We assume that the boy in the photo was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sarnoff who were identified on the back. It is not too early to make your Christmas wish list. These children with their faces pressed against the store window are probably going to go home and do just that. If you know any of the children in the photo, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us@museumofforterie.on.ca.

Shop local this holiday season

The holidays are quickly approaching and the big box stores and the malls across are already jammed with shoppers looking for the perfect gift for that special someone on their lists.

On the quest to find the perfect gift, sometimes shoppers travel long distances to find what they are looking for. Often, they forget what is right in their own neighbourhood.

Instead of making the long trek to an outlet mall, or crossing the border, why not take a look to see what is offered in your own neighbourhood first. You might be surprised.

There are plenty of businesses in Fort Erie that have unique gift ideas that will please the most difficult person to buy for.

Downtown Ridgeway offers a wide variety of shops, selling everything from toys, to chocolates, decorations, housewares and so much more.

Have you stopped to notice all of the activity on Jarvis Street lately?

Bridgeburg's downtown district is growing fast and there are plenty of new businesses popping up and there are lots of things to see and do.

You could also explore some of the bazaars and craft sales hosted by local churches and service organizations. These types of events usually have handmade one-of-a-kind items that are always appreciated. The best part about shopping at these types of events support local artists, and usually, the proceeds from these sales support community organizations.

When you buy items locally, all of the money from the sales go back into the community. You are supporting local businesses owners, which creates more jobs and improves the economy.

Fort Erie's business community has a lot to offer and with the holidays coming up, now is the perfect time to support our community.

**OUR
LETTERS
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To be considered for publication, all letters must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes. Only your name and the city/town where you live will be published. Please keep your comments to a maximum of 500 words. Submit your letters via e-mail to: sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

Comment

'Canadian Hemlock tree' takes more than 250 years to mature

Earl Plato
Special to The Times

At least 200 years have passed since this giant Eastern hemlock started its life on Forster Lane on the western edge of Fort Erie.

Old Earl leaning on his trusty cane isn't quite that age.

Years ago, cousin Keith Plato and I measured the circumference of this giant tree: 16 feet and five and one-half inches.

Many years have passed since then. This past November, age shrinks things. Once six feet, I have shrunk a little.

Rick Dean, I believe, is very accurate. I held one end of his tape. This time 16 feet, three inches. Shrunk?

Depends where you measure it. Still one large tree. You know, spruce and pine needles. Prickly sharp, eh? Not so the Eastern hemlock. They lie flat and smooth and are a rich green.

Writer's note: I was working on my Gold Arrow Scout badge. It was a weeklong

intensive course, I was one of the younger ones. I was matched with two older scouts.

Lucky me.

They were accomplished campers.

We had been dropped off in a wilderness area.

Survival for overnight. We walked northwards according to

our compass. In the late afternoon, we stopped. Brian, the older scout said this, "Here's hemlock."

He took out his huge knife and started cutting down branches.

Hemlock's needles, as I said, lie flat.

They make a nice cushion. We rolled out our sleeping bags.

I recall a good night's sleep on a springy hemlock cushion. High and dry. Thanks, Brian.

Thanks hemlock.

What do you know about this tree?

First of all, the poison hemlock that killed famed Greek philosopher, Socrates, was not from our tree. It's from a small European tree, the Water Hemlock. Some arborists call our hemlock the Canadian hemlock.

They may take 250 to 300 years to reach maturity. What?

Our Marcy tree is still young.

Listen to this: Our Canadian hemlock may live for 800 years. Amazing.

Don't cut this tree down.

Here are 10 reasons why living trees are valuable: they produce oxygen; trees clean the soil; trees control noise pollution; trees slow storm runoff; trees are "carbon sinks"; trees clean the air; trees shade and cool; trees fight soil erosion; trees act as windbreaks; trees increase property value.

Why not plan this coming spring to plant a tree or two or more.

Do it for the reasons I have stated or, plant a tree in memory of a loved one.

This fall we had just come from Algonquin Park. It was time for dinner.

Just outside the park we pulled into a restaurant. The first thing that caught my eyes were two giant White pine.

After a great dinner I stood by the larger of the two pines. Saved from the saw or axe they were both huge specimens. I put my arms around the larger. They still embraced half of the tree. Sad but true the White pine is Ontario's provincial tree but we have cut most of them down. They are a great lumber tree.

Writer's note: In Fort Erie at the Graham Woods on Rose Hill was a significant stand of White pine. In the early 1950's came lumbermen with one object remove the White pine. They did.

I remember the late Bert Miller telling my father of the decimation of Graham Woods, his favourite woods. Also was the cutting down of the historic Tulip tree at that time. Young homeowners plant some White pines in 2016.

Earl Plato is a resident of Fort Erie, local historian and nature lover.



Old hemlock and Earl Plato.

Mittens, scarves and hats needed to fill Christmas trees

Amy Roebuck
Special to The Times

Tonight's film, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Centennial branch of the Fort Erie Public Library, is *A Walk in the Woods* based on the bestselling book by writer and polymath Bill Bryson.

In this new comedy adventure, travel writer Bryson challenges himself to hike the Appalachian Trail, 3540 kilometers of America's most spectacular and rugged countryside between Georgia and Maine.

The tranquility he hopes to find is threatened by the only person he can find willing to join him on the trek: his long lost friend Katz, a capital I loser. The trouble is that the two men have completely different definitions of the word, "adventure." Bill Bedford stars as Bryson, with Nick Nolte as the amazingly skilled Katz, with Emma Thompson and Mary Steenburgen in supporting roles. This movie is rated 14 A. If you haven't read any of Bill Bryson's books, treat yourself today to

one of the eighteen titles in the library collection. Bryson has written so entertainingly on so many different topics, including travel, science, history and language, that you can enjoy his books for weeks.

Next week's film stars Ian McKellen as the aging Sherlock in *Mr. Holmes*. Retired and dealing with dementia, Holmes struggles to remember his final case and a special woman who haunts his memories.

Milo Parker is outstanding

as young Roger, the son of Holmes' housekeeper, who is played by Laura Linney. The mysteries, twists and turns in this plot are worthy of the original stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The Conan Doyle stories and many spin-offs, both books and film versions, are available in the library collection. *Mr. Holmes* will be screened at the Crystal Ridge branch on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m., and at the Centennial branch on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. Browse our

collection at any branch, or online at www.fepi.ca.

There is still room for kids ages ten and up to register to play for their favourite team in our Madden 16 Xbox One tournament, this Saturday, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to get into the holiday spirit, let us suggest a concert of popular tunes and seasonal favourites performed by the Niagara Men's Chorus, which will be presented at the Stevensville Hall on Tuesday, December 8, beginning at 7

p.m. Tickets are available at any branch for this outstanding program, and the \$5 ticket price includes traditional refreshments.

Please do not forget our mitten trees and book baskets at each branch. Donations of new handmade or purchased mittens, scarves and hats, as well as new books for all ages, are being accepted through December 10.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

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Police remind public to lock it, or lose it

With the holiday season approaching, people are being urged by police to protect their vehicles and contents from theft.

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police launched its Lock It or Lose It campaign Tuesday morning at GO Transit's Scarborough Station where commuters leave their vehicles.

"Thieves know that an unlocked vehicle is an open invitation to crime. So is leaving your valuables in plain sight," said Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire, president of the police chiefs association.

"This is a busy time of the year. It's easy to be distracted and leave your vehicle unlocked or valuables in your car. Take extra time to lock it down."

During the Lock It or Lose It campaign, police officers and special constables examine parked vehicles to confirm they are locked and that no valuables have been left in plain view. Officers place a small notice on vehicles checked indicating what safety precautions were neglected

and offer simple prevention tips for drivers to protect their vehicles against theft.

The notices also congratulate drivers who have secured their vehicle.

Motorists and passengers are urged not to keep personal documents such as vehicle ownership, liability pink slips, credit card invoices or other documents containing personal information in their vehicles. Identity thieves are looking for such documents so they can assume identities, secure credit card accounts, lease vehicles for export, and even take out a mortgage against victims' properties without their knowledge, the association said in a news release.

Although auto thefts had been on the decline over the past decade, stolen vehicles are up one per cent to 73,924 across Canada over the past 12 months.

Cases of identity theft and fraud have increased across Canada from 10,807 in 2010 to 11,594 in 2013 — a six per cent increase.

Museum highlights Fort Erie's achievements

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

From handmade quilts to costumes, to machinery and even Kraft Dinner, the Fort Erie Historical Museum's new exhibit highlights all of the items that were originally created in Fort Erie.

A group of volunteers have spent the last 12 months researching thousands of years of making in Fort Erie. Currently, there are more than 150 items on display in the museum's new exhibit, which is called *Made in Fort Erie*. The exhibit features a wide variety of people and companies that originated in the historic community.

"What is inspired us to do something like this is the museum's own collection," Andrea Wilson, the Fort Erie Historical Museum's curator, said.

"There is a lot of material that the public has given us to preserve for future generations and we want to share as much of it as possible."

People might be surprised to learn that Robert Pound, who was born in Ridgeway and taught at Harvard University, was the co-creator of the MRI, said museum volunteer Arthur Battiston.

Since she began volunteering for the museum, Nancy Pye said she has learned a lot about her family's history. Her uncle is J.L. Kraft, who created Kraft Dinner, was born in Fort Erie and started a company that



Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

From left, Karen Angle, Fort Erie Historical Museum curator Andrea Wilson, Arthur Battiston, Nancy Pye and Wendy Harkins invite the community to explore *Made in Fort Erie*, a new exhibit at the museum in Ridgeway.

he later moved to Chicago.

"I never did get to meet him, but I did get to meet his wife," she said.

Pye's grandfather, Charles Glenn, was responsible for stringing the first phone

lines in Stevensville.

Museum volunteer Wendy Harkins also located a quilt at the museum that was made by her family in 1932.

"It was a quilt made for a fundraiser and it has the

names of members of my family on it."

Although she isn't originally from Fort Erie, volunteer Karen Angle said she has a special place in her heart for Fleet's history.

"Its history is just amazing," she said.

The exhibit was made possible through the Niagara Region Investment in Culture Funding and a grant from the Niagara

Community Foundation.

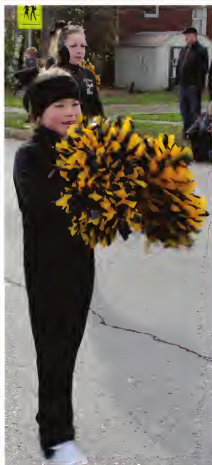
For more information about the Fort Erie Historical Museum and its new exhibit call 905-894-5322.

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Photos by Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

A number of schools and organizations participated in the Greater Fort Erie Santa Claus Parade on Saturday including Niagara Cheerleaders, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School and the Fort Erie Kinsmen.

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Photos by Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

Those in attendance of the Greater Fort Erie Santa Claus Parade on Saturday got a chance to view plenty of floats, fire trucks and a number of animals including alpacas.

Health Corner

How a trip to the Dentist could mean a better night's sleep: Part One

According to recent studies, approximately 20% of North Americans suffer from a sleep problem. Problems with sleep affect both men and women of every race, age, and socioeconomic class. Although lack of sleep appears to be a benign problem, its effects are far reaching. One of the major causes of sleep disruption is obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). OSA is a complete cessation of breathing during sleep for at least 10 seconds. It affects men more than women and particularly individuals between the ages of 40 to 60. If OSA is left untreated, it can lead to an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes, arrhythmias, as well as sleep-deprived motor vehicle accidents.

The symptoms of obstructive sleep apnea include:

- Intermittent snoring
- Poor memory
- Excessive daytime sleepiness
- Irritability
- Headaches
- GERD

Risk factors for obstructive sleep apnea include:



Dr. John Inigo

- Increasing age
- Obesity
- Family history
- Male gender
- Alcohol use
- Smoking
- High blood pressure
- Asthma

You might be asking yourself, "So how does my dentist come into play with obstructive sleep apnea?" Well, aside from the above mentioned symptoms of OSA, there are several and manifestations of obstructive sleep apnea that can be seen by your dentist that may help in the detection of OSA. These symptoms include:

- Enlarged scalloped tongue

- Pain on palpation of the jaw joints
- Increasing prevalence of OSA and the fact that it remains largely undiagnosed in the general population, it is increasingly important that you are screened by your dentist or family doctor so that the treatment process can begin in a timely manner. Most times, we will discuss how OSA is treated and how your dentist can play a huge role in helping you get better sleep.
- Jaw joint sounds when opening or closing the mouth
- Crowding of teeth
- Wear patterns on teeth

Because of the widespread prevalence of OSA and the fact that it remains largely undiagnosed in the general population, it is increasingly important that you are screened by your dentist or family doctor so that the treatment process can begin in a timely manner. Most times, we will discuss how OSA is treated and how your dentist can play a huge role in helping you get better sleep.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. He can be reached at Inigo Bertie Dentistry 905.871.2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry 905.894.5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com

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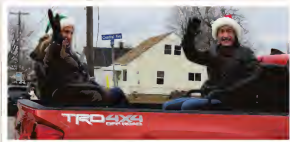


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Photos by Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

Maynor Wayne Redekop and his wife, Cathy, waved to spectators during the Greater Fort Erie Santa Claus Parade on Saturday. The event featured the St. George Catholic Elementary School Choir and stilt walkers.

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Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie Optimist and Omnettes volunteers have been hard at work this month to prepare dazzling lighting displays that will be featured during the service club's annual Santa's Fantasy Land. Families are invited to attend the Optimist Club, at 155 Gilmore Rd., to visit with Santa, decorate cookies with Mrs. Claus, play games and enjoy a penny sale and bake sale. The event will be held on Nov. 27 from 5 to 8 p.m.; Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Nov. 29 from noon to 5 p.m. The event will also be held on Dec. 4 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Dec. 6 from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free but donations to Community Outreach Program Erie are appreciated. Photos with Santa are \$5.



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Hamper program makes holiday merry for families in need

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

The holidays can be tough for some families, but the Fort Erie Salvation Army is here to help.

Registration for the Salvation Army's Christmas hamper program is well underway.

Elliott Innes, the Fort Erie Salvation Army's community and family services manager, said families that need assistance during the holidays can apply to the hamper program.

Registration will be held every Tuesday in November and Dec. 1 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Salvation Army on Gilmore Road.

"All they need to bring is their ID and proof of income for everyone in the home," Innes said.

Families will also receive a voucher that is valid at Joe's Valu-Mart in Ridgeway and Subeys and No Frills in Fort Erie. Innes said the voucher allows families to purchase

groceries to make a holiday meal.

Innes said the hamper program would not be possible without the support of the community and service groups that have partnered with the organization.

The Fort Erie Kinsmen partner with the Salvation Army to collect toys through the service club's Kinsmen Gift of Love program.

The Stevensville Garden Gallery also recently donated 1,217 pounds of non-perishable items that were collected by staff during an open house celebration.

Innes also encourages any local business owners that wish to sponsor a family at Christmas to contact him.

For the first time ever, the Salvation Army has partnered with St. Paul's Anglican Church in order to host a holiday meal on Christmas Day starting at noon.

"It's something that we're really excited about. We have volunteers ready to help cook and celebrate the hol-

days with people."

The meal is free, but people must register for tickets ahead of time.

Cam Schell, community and family services worker, said there's nothing more fulfilling than helping a family or a person in need.

"I know personally, how excited you feel when you can help a family at Christmas," he said.

Schell said he is looking forward to serving meals to people during the Salvation Army's Christmas dinner.

"I'm also putting the word out that anyone who knows a person who is disabled, or a senior that will be alone on Christmas and can't make it to our dinner to let me know and we'll deliver them a hot meal!"

He encourages anyone who needs assistance through the hamper program, or for more information about the upcoming holiday meal to contact him at 905-871-1592 ext. 22. sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

Community support



Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

Nino D'Ambra and Maria Costa, of Nino D'Ambra Hair and Aesthetics recently presented Ann Mantini, executive director of Wellspring Niagara, with a cheque for \$10,900. The proceeds were raised during the fourth annual Vivere Fashion Show, which was held at the Fort Erie Leisureplex and Banquet Hall last month.

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Photos with Santa at Boggio Edwards LDA, Children's Choirs at Pacific Productions International, Ridgeway Village Square Activities, Candlelight Stroll with Victorian Carolers, Horse Drawn Carriage Rides and lots of in-store special activities.

Saturday December 5th, 2015:**8:30am - 11:00am:**

Breakfast with Santa at RCL 230

11:00am: Christmas Cookie Decorating with Mrs. Claus at RCL 230

11:00am - 3:00pm:

Downtown Ridgeway "Christmas on the Ridge" Activities
Photos with Santa in the Ridgeway Village Square, Children's Choirs at Pacific Productions, In-Store Activities & Specials along Ridge Road, Horse Drawn Carriage Rides & Lots More.

Sunday December 6th, 2015:**11:00am:**

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Historic elements to be added to new police HQ

Maryanne Firth
Postmedia Network

The future headquarters of the Niagara Regional Police Service will include a tribute to the past.

During his monthly online webcast with Postmedia Monday, police Chief Jeff McGuire shared plans to include historic elements into the new \$65-million Niagara Falls facility, as well as in the new St. Catharines station.

Items are being gathered that reflect the NRP's past, as well as the history of local police forces prior to creation of the regionalized service in 1971.

The statement large brass door handles from the existing Morrison St. police station, for instance, will be removed and included in the new headquarters, which will also house rooms named after former police chiefs, McGuire said.

He expressed the importance of recognizing history and "the people who came along before us."

"We're going to bring as much (history) into the building as we can."

The new 1 District station in St. Catharines will also pay homage to the past.

The large shoulder flash crest that once hung above the existing Church St. station's front entrance has been removed and is being refurbished for the new facility, McGuire said.

The police chief toured the new headquarters last week and said it's "getting very close" to completion.

He estimated the NRP would take at least partial possession of the roughly 200,000-square-foot facility sometime in March, when installation of IT equipment will begin.

"Then we'll start our gradual move..."

We hope to be in and fully operational by June," he said.

"There's lots of work to be done but we're looking forward to getting in."

The headquarters, part of an \$83-million project that also includes the new Garden City police station, is being built on eight acres of land at Valley Way and Portage Road.

It will be home to about 600 of the NRP's 1,100 uniform and civilian members.

Chief mum on shooting charges

There's still no indication whether a man involved in a Pelham shooting last month will face charges.

Little information has been released about the Oct. 10 incident during which two police officers and a suspect were shot in an armed standoff at a Canboro Road apartment complex. Police had responded to reports of a suicidal male.

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire, during an online webcast with Postmedia Monday, said due to the investigation underway by the provincial Special Investigations Unit, he was able to give little update on the case.

"I can't talk about the evidence at all," he said, declining to also comment on the investigation.

Const. Neal Ridley and Const. Jake Braun were both shot, as well as the suspect identified by neighbours as 29-year-old Corey Richardson.

"It's my understanding he's still in hospital," McGuire said the suspect, who is not in police custody and "still being treated medically."

"If there are charges to be laid against him, once we've consulted with the Crown attorney, those charges will be laid when necessary."

CONTINUED > PAGE 25



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A: The holidays are the perfect time to glam up your style! To get that loose wave style, split hair into 1 inch vertical sections and wrap each section around a curling iron (use it like a wand). The larger the curling iron the looser the curl. This will give you that soft effortless wave. Most importantly, always use a professional product such as our Goldwell Hot Form styling spray to protect, shape, hold, and smooth the hair for a perfect wave style!

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and officers to the requirements of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). Depending on your type of business venture you may also be affected by industry related licenses and permits.

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Ask The Expert

Q: I am thinking of starting a business. What are the typical risks involved?

A: Risk taking is a large part of being an entrepreneur. The following are risks that every entrepreneur must be prepared for:

- Giving up the steady paycheck
- Sacrificing personal assets and savings
- Sustaining reliable cash flow
- Estimating the interest people have in your business or service
- Trusting key employees or employees
- Meeting deadlines for product launches or opening the doors
- Contributing personal time - be prepared to work countless hours and make personal sacrifices
- Using an entrepreneur ready for your product or service (probably the most important consideration)

Even my experience entrepreneurs are special people but if you have what it takes the rewards outweigh the risks.



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Ask a Lawyer

Q: My aunt died last year, and I have recently received phone calls from some Credit Card Companies claiming that she owes money, and demanding that I pay them. My aunt didn't own any assets when she died, other than what she had in her apartment. Do I have to pay these debts?

A: No one is responsible for the payment of someone else's debt, unless they have personally guaranteed them. If your aunt owned assets (bank accounts, car, etc.) when she passed, those assets should have been used to pay her debts before the remainder of the monies were transferred to her beneficiaries. However, since your aunt did not have sufficient assets to pay her debts, she was insolvent at the time of her death. You are not required to personally use your own funds to pay them. You should advise the credit card companies (likely collection agencies) that she was insolvent, and instruct them to no longer contact you.



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Q: Are concrete burial vaults mandatory?

A: This is a cemetery requirement in some cases, while other cemetery locations allow burials without. Your funeral professional will be able to provide this information on your cemetery of choice. If your preferred cemetery does not require a burial vault make sure you educate yourself in their value prior to making the decision.

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Sarah Ferguson/Fort Erie Times

Bill Pasinsky Jr., of Bill's Toyota in Fort Erie, stands beside the Fort Erie Salvation Army's community and services manager, Elliott Innes. Bill's Toyota donated the use of a brand new van to the non-profit charity to assist in the annual kettle campaign during the holidays.

Spare change can make a huge difference

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

It doesn't take a lot for a person to make a difference in someone else's life. It just takes time.

"Our annual Christmas kettle campaign started on Nov. 12 and continues until Dec. 24 and we are still in need of volunteers to help us," Elliott Innes, the Fort Erie Salvation Army's community and family services manager, said.

"This year has been the best year in terms of response for volunteers over the last five years, but we still need more help."

This year's goal is \$64,000, which is slightly higher than last year's goal of \$62,000.

Although it's a hefty goal,

Innes said it's not impossible because the people of Fort Erie have always shown their support for individuals in need.

He encourages people to drop a few dollars, or even a few cents into the kettle because "every penny matters."

If people aren't able to make a monetary donation, they can donate their time to stand at a kettle.

Innes said he is "always amazed" by the people who volunteer for the kettle campaign because these volunteers have either received assistance from the Salvation Army or have continued to support it year after year.

The kettle campaign is the largest fundraiser of

the year for the Salvation Army. The amount raised during the campaign is used over the course of the entire year to fund the programs and food bank that help families and individuals in need in Fort Erie. These programs include the mobile outreach truck that provides monthly meals, a community garden, tax clinics and help with utility payments.

All of the money raised through the kettle campaign will go toward helping families in need.

This year, Bill's Toyota in Fort Erie has donated the use of a "Santa van," a new 2015 Toyota Sienna, which will be used to transport volunteers and collect kettles.

"Thanks to this generous donation, we're literally saving thousands of dollars in mileage over the course of the campaign and we're so grateful for the continued support," Innes said.

Kettle campaign coordinator Nicole Brochu said she is proud to be part of this year's campaign.

"I've worked with non-profit organizations before and I think (the Salvation Army) is a good cause," Brochu said.

Students who need to earn community service hours and anyone who wishes to assist in the kettle campaign are encouraged to call Brochu at 289-303-7282.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

Parent worker Tammy Harris helped children cut pieces of cake for guest that attend the grand opening celebration for the Parenting and Family Literacy Centre at Peace Bridge Public School last Wednesday.

Families, children welcomed to literacy centre open house

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

The Parenting and Family Literacy Centre has a new home and members of the community were invited to celebrate last week.

Parents, children and members of the District School Board of Niagara attended an open house at Peace Bridge Public School last Wednesday morning to raise awareness for the program.

The literacy centre provides a free program, giving children from infancy to six-years-old a chance to get a head start in learning through play and educational activities, Tammy Harris, a parent worker, said.

"We've been here at Peace Bridge Public School since September and now we are finally getting to celebrate," Harris said.

"We love being with the school and the rest of the community. It is beautiful here."

The literacy centre is a drop-in program so parents and their children are welcome to attend the centre any time

between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"I find this program is great for getting children ready for kindergarten. They get in that school routine so when they finally get to school they aren't shocked by it," Harris said.

"It's a wonderful program that helps transition children from pre-school to kindergarten and it allows us as a school to create partnerships with families in the community, Peace Bridge Public School principal Cindy Kolinski said.

Previously, the program was held at former Rose Seaton Public School. The school closed its doors in 2013, but the program continued to operate out of the Emerick Avenue school until it moved to Peace Bridge Public School.

Jennifer Smith, an early years consultant, said the literacy centre in Fort Erie is one of four in the Niagara Region that is operated by the DSNB. The other centres are located in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland.

Sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

Skills Clinic 2016

» Skills and Drills - Age 8 to 14 - Field A
QB's & Receivers - Age 13 to 19 - Field B «

Dates: January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

Times: All sessions
7:30pm to 9:00pm

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Included - Special Meeting Room Seminars For Adults
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- 1 • **Offensive Coordinator** • Jan 21st
Facilitator: Dave Sauer Offensive Roll & Function
- 2 • **Defensive Coordinator** • Feb 4th
Facilitator: Mike Solanki defensive Coordinator Roll & Function
Former High School Coach & current scout for McMaster University
- 3 • **Referee Seminar** • Feb. 18th
Facilitators: Referees from the Lakeshore Referee Association
- 4 • **Parent Participation Night** (Open attire required) March 24th
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Police chief says there is a plan in place to combat terrorism

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 20

As for the police officers, one whom was shot three times and the other shot once in the foot, McGuire said he's spoken with both multiple times in the past few weeks.

"One officer for sure is lucky to be alive," he said.

"He had very significant injuries but he's going to recover."

The NRP, McGuire said, is "hoping to have (both officers) back to work as soon as they're able to."

Plan in place to combat terrorism
in Niagara, in addition to

having a NRP officer working with the provincial anti-terrorism strategy unit, the local police forces work closely with RCMP and the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team to stay on top of any potential issues.

"If the level of risk needs to be elevated, we're there to make sure that happens," he said.

"We do our very best to keep our finger on the pulse and try to keep people informed as best we can." Police have catalogued critical infrastructure, such as major gathering places, arenas and tourist attractions, that could be considered targets locally.

The service works closely with those locations to ensure proper

security plans are in place.

"If we ever did get a specific threat we would have to take action to execute that and we're prepared."

The Paris attacks, McGuire said, are a reminder "not to become complacent," which at times is easier said than done in what's considered a safe country like Canada.

"What I tell people is you just need to be vigilant. If you see things that don't seem right or if you're in a community where there may be radicalization going on, then it needs to come to the attention of the authorities so we can intervene."

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

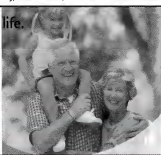
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You may drop off your Gift of Love at the Salvation Army Kettle Stands & at the following locations:

- Old Bank Bistro • Wal-Mart • Brodies Drug Store on Ridge Road in Ridgeway
- Scotiabank in the County Fair Mall • Royal Bank Ridge Road in Ridgeway
- The Fort Erie Times • McGregor-Miller in Stevensville

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2015	CHEVY EXPRESS 1LS	425A0595	\$28,130	SOLD
2015	CHEVY EXPRESS 1LS	4250959	\$27,855	\$5,216
2015	CHEVY EXPRESS 1LT	4250951	\$30,180	\$5,726
2015	CHEVY EXPRESS 1LS	4250978	\$28,130	\$5,316
2015	CHEVY EXPRESS 1LT	4250979	\$28,800	\$5,450
2015	CHEVY EXPRESS 1LS	4250982	\$32,100	\$6,110
2015	CHEVY CRUZE 1SL	4110436	\$27,935	\$5,287
2015	CHEVY CRUZE 1SL	4110550	\$27,935	\$5,287
2015	CHEVY CRUZE 1SL	4110543	\$27,555	\$5,211
2015	CHEVY CRUZE 1SL	4110545	\$28,130	\$5,326
2015	CHEVY CRUZE 1SL	4110577	\$27,730	SOLD
2015	CHEVY CRUZE 1SB	4110596	\$20,570	SOLD
2015	CHEVY CRUZE 1SA	4110678	\$29,780	\$5,656
2015	CHEVY CRUZE 1SA	4110711	\$25,855	\$4,871
2015	BUICK ENCORE 1SD	428D0184	\$34,935	\$6,677
2015	BUICK ENCORE 1SC	428D0690	\$34,230	\$6,536
2015	CHEVY IMPALA 2LT	4030001	\$38,650	\$7,420
2015	BUICK REGAL 1SL	400D0002	\$37,390	\$7,168
2015	GMC SIERRA HD 3SA	431B0052	\$60,745	SOLD
2015	GMC SIERRA LD 4SA	431B0301	\$60,795	SOLD
2015	GMC SIERRA LD 3SA	431B0275	\$49,730	SOLD
2015	CHEVY SILVERADO	4300394	\$50,545	SOLD
2015	CHEVY SILVERADO	4300069	\$54,390	\$14,480
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SB	4020035	\$19,240	\$3,548
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SB	4020082	\$17,045	\$3,109
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SB	4020106	\$19,545	\$3,609
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SD	4020438	\$23,490	SOLD
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SF	402548	\$24,490	\$4,598
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SA	4020601	\$17,045	\$3,109
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SB	4020618	\$19,240	\$3,548
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SA	4020625	\$17,240	\$3,148
2015	CHEVY SONIC 1SB	4020619	\$19,240	\$3,509
2015	CHEVY SPARK 1SD	4040279	\$18,845	\$3,469
2015	GMC TERRAIN 4SA	424B0699	\$37,365	SOLD
2015	CHEVY TRAX 1SF	428D787	\$29,800	\$5,960
2015	CHEVY TRAX 1SC	428D845	\$27,740	\$5,638
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► POLICE BRIEFS

Police request public's help to identify suspect

Niagara Regional Police are asking the public's help to identify the identity of an unknown male involved in a sexual assault that occurred in Fort Erie.

Members of the NRP Sexual Assault Unit began conducting an investigation on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

The incident occurred on Sunday, Nov. 15 at approximately 1:30 p.m. in the area of Niagara Boulevard and Gilmore Road.

An adult female was walking in this area when she was attacked by an unknown male and dragged to a nearby wooded area where the incident continued. The victim was able to fight off the male and run to safety.

The man is described as a white male in his late thirties, approximately six feet tall and of a slim build. He was wearing a black ball cap at the time and was clean-shaven.

Police are encouraging anyone who may have witnessed this incident to contact the Niagara Regional Police Sexual Assault Unit at 905-688-4111 extension 5100.

Two people charged for drug trafficking offences

Niagara Regional Police say two people are facing drug trafficking charges.

Officers from the prescription pill unit concluded an investigation into fentanyl trafficking on Nov. 19.

As a result of the investigation, 58-year-old Jom Palencia, of Crystal Beach, was arrested and charged with trafficking fentanyl, possession of fentanyl for the purpose of trafficking, and possession of crack cocaine.

April Hill, of Fort Erie, was arrested as a result of the investigation and charged with possession of fentanyl.

Police also seized fentanyl patches, crack cocaine, currency and debit lists.



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 71, FORT ERIE

POPPY REPORT STATEMENT

October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015

The Royal Canadian Legion is a trustee, acting on behalf of the citizens who contribute to our Poppy Fund. It is therefore necessary to report the results of our last campaign and the manner in which funds are distributed.

AMOUNT COLLECTED IN	CAMPAIGN 2014	\$23,583.26
DISBURSEMENTS TO VETERANS & DEPENDENTS		\$18,785.85
ESSAY & POSTER CONTEST		
COST OF POPPIES, WREATHS, & EXPENSES		\$10,025.87
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$28,811.72

NOTE: EXCESS OF COLLECTED, ADDED TO CAMPAIGN.

[Signature]

POPPY CHAIRMAN

[Signature]

BRANCH #71 PRESIDENT

"They served till death! Why not we?"





Church to welcome three Syrian refugees to Fort Erie

By Arthur Brown
Special to The Times

The St. John's-Stevensville United Church, with its regular worshipping members from all parts of the Greater Fort Erie area, is responding to the Syrian refugee crisis with sponsorships for up to three families with young children.

Rather than being intimidated or "terrorized" in response to recent world events, this congregation is reaching out toward world peace; the alternative being to live in fear and allow terrorists to achieve their goals.

The "SJS" congregation is already in a position to sponsor two families but would like to cluster at least three families for mutual support in learning English and adapting to the Canadian environment. This could be achieved with three families or more if others of goodwill decide to join in financing, contributing supplies, and in the welcoming care.

This situation is similar to the difficult circumstances of earlier arrivals in the Fort Erie area.

Pennsylvania Deutsch settlers came from the US after leaving Europe under some duress in many cases. Scottish, Irish, United Empire Loyalist, African-American, Ukrainian, Polish, Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Vietnamese refugees and migrants also arrived here in challenging circumstances,

frequently with government aid or church and community support.

Germany leads the world in the current crisis and recognizes the long-term benefits of the refugees to revitalize an aging workforce in that society. This local refugee program was proposed to the church by an elderly German migrant who came to Canada to seek a new life in the aftermath of Second World War.

The cost of sponsorship is estimated at \$30,000 per family for an initial year, the amount which is the legal responsibility of the sponsoring body. In a few weeks the details will be posted and updated on the stjohnsstevensvilleunitedchurch.com website.

On the basis of initial donations, the official board of the church recently authorized a budget of \$90,000 for this sponsorship project. With \$75,000 on hand so far, the St. John's-Stevensville church hopes to raise at least \$5,000 more from its members and other United Churches.

Similarly, the congregation hopes to raise \$5,000 from individuals and families in Fort Erie who may belong to other Christian traditions who are not currently involved in sponsorships, as well as perhaps \$5,000 from those of other religions and those of no religion.

Managed well, such programs have a poignant history

of integrating New Canadians into the fabric of our society, to the benefit of all in the building up of our country. In the opinion of those who study such issues, the Fort Erie area should benefit from this short-in-the-arm.

St. John's - Stevensville United Church was founded as a congregation by Pennsylvania Deutsch immigrants in the early 1800s. It then included Protestants, Catholics, Jews and Gypsies, and is now made up of many cultures which have blended into the quintessentially Canadian spiritual community.

Regarded as one of the most beautiful worship environments in Canada, St. John's - Stevensville is a charming red brick church in the Stevensville area of Fort Erie, on Sodom Road just north of Netherby Road. A welcoming inukshuk stands in the churchyard, guiding people home to God.

To indicate interest or to find out more about the refugee sponsorship program, you might visit the congregation at worship on any Sunday morning at 11 a.m., or you may contact the new Outreach Minister, Revrand Cheryl Wood-Thomas by email at rev.cheryl.wood@gmail.com or 905-687-2664 to arrange for a conversation in your own home. The goal is to make refugee sponsorship a community affair.



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Special to The Times

Caring for Fort Erie's creeks

Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School students and members of the Friends of Fort Erie's Creeks recently planted trees at Beaver Creek, Frenchman's Creek and other areas of Greater Fort Erie. The Fort Friends of the Environment Foundation provided the trees and supplies necessary to make planting possible.



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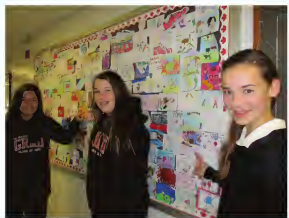
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Special to The Times

Say no to bullying

Last week, students at St. Philomena School took a stand against bullying. Led by the Child and Youth Worker, Mrs. Sadonja, each student in the school made a patch for a school quilt that was displayed in the front hall of the school. The theme was 'Stomp Out Bullying.' So intertwined amongst the quilt pieces were footprints and shoes to stomp out bullying. The intermediate students went to each class to explain the meaning behind the quilt and ran a contest in each class. Winners of the quilt pieces received a pencil that had the pledge – Say No to Bullying. From left, standing beside the quilt are the school's Lead Out Loud representatives Victoria Zarb, Katie Murphy, and Ainsley Millar.



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Special to the Times

The community is invited to participate in the Making Spirits Bright Holiday Lights Contest. In this photo is last year's Spirit Award Overall winner at 467 Gorham Rd.

Nominations sought for Christmas lighting contest

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

With the holidays near, homeowners have been challenged to find new and creative ways to brighten their homes with dazzling light displays.

The Greater Fort Erie Making Spirits Bright Holiday Lights Contest is underway and organizer Linda Anderson is looking for participants.

Anderson said she's "switched things up this year" with new categories. In addition to best residential and commercial displays, prizes will be awarded for the best residential neighbourhood, small businesses and large businesses.

"I thought that by adding the new categories it would make it more fun," Anderson said. "I also think it would be fun to create some competition throughout the town and encourage whole neighbourhoods to get involved."

Local business owners donate prizes, and Anderson said she is grateful for the business community's continued support.

According to Anderson, new judges are selected every year and they grade each participant's display on creativity,

colour, curb appeal, and holiday spirit. "Some years, winners have a family theme, and another year a winner might be selected for its modern appeal," she said.

Secret judging will take place on Dec. 11. Participants can register by sending an e-mail to Anderson at linda@larryandersonconsultants.com or by mailing the information to 888 Grandview Rd., Fort Erie, Ont., L2A 4V7.

Participants must include their name, address, phone number, e-mail, category and a picture of their entry that will be used on Facebook.

Anderson encourages residents to participate in the holiday lighting contest.

"It's not about winning. It's about having fun in your community and showing off your creativity," Anderson said.

"It's also about making Fort Erie a brighter place during the holidays."

For more information about the contest, Anderson encourages individuals to visit the Greater Fort Erie Making Spirits Bright Holiday Lights Contest Facebook page.

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RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Niagara Falls Mayor: Hospital construction could begin in 2016

Ray Spiteri
Postmedia Network

A shovel could be in the ground by the end of 2016 for a new south Niagara hospital on the outskirts of Niagara Falls, says Mayor Jim Diodati.

Diodati said he has regular meetings with Niagara Health System, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand-Brant Local Health Integration Network and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care officials, and that based on those discussions, he's confident of the 2016 goal.

Diodati said Eric Hoskins, Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, has told him "several

times" the government plans to move forward "expeditiously" on the hospital file.

"It's music to my ears," said Diodati. "I anticipate some form of groundbreaking at the end of next year."

The province announced a \$26.2 million planning grant process for the new hospital in January 2014.

The NHS formed a planning committee in 2014 to steer the organization through the process.

A clinical services plan was completed, while officials will study what services could be on site, and what the footprint of the hospital could look like.

"We, as city officials, have kept

our finger on the pulse of this issue," said Diodati. "We want to be proactive and ensure there are no delays. Our staff have been proactively planning that area for development."

Niagara Health System President Suzanne Johnston said the planning committee is "working ambitiously and quickly" to bring the new hospital to construction.

"We are still in the early stages of planning and are working with our teams, partners, and external experts to ensure our plans meet the health-care needs of Niagara residents," she said.

"We are working diligently to complete our first submission

regarding the capital planning process in December to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and will continue our strong working relationship with government as we move through our planning stages."

Johnston said "important" government approvals are required before construction can begin.

"We are pleased to report our first submission will be submitted shortly."

Thirty acres of serviced land, at the intersection of Montrose Road and Biggar Road, was donated in 2013 by the Grasel family, who are businesspeople from Toronto, but own land in Niagara Falls, for the

project.

Niagara Falls city council committed \$22 million towards the hospital project, while Fort Erie town council pledged \$3 million.

NHS chief executive officer Kevin Smith in 2012 recommended closing existing south Niagara hospitals and replacing them with a single new hospital to be built in Niagara Falls.

The south Niagara hospital is expected to replace aging facilities in Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Welland and Port Colborne.

"This project will mean better health care at a better price," said Diodati.

"We have an opportunity to be a centre of excellence for Niagara south — just as there is a centre of excellence for Niagara north — so that our residents won't have to leave the area for special treatments."

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Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Welcome home

The community was invited to attend an open house at the Fort Erie SPCA to celebrate the grand opening of the new addition at the animal shelter on Friday. The \$115,000 renovation, which added an extra 600-square feet of space, began in June and was completed over the course of 12 months. The renovation was made possible through private donations and fundraising. Surrounded by staff and volunteers, SPCA manager Wendy Trombley and Mayor Wayne Redekop cut a red ribbon to signify the grand opening of the new addition.

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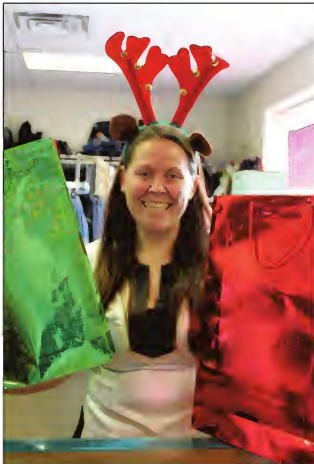
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Sarah Ferguson Fort Erie Times

Niagara Area Children's Assistance Program is hosting the One Stop Christmas Shop on Dec. 6 Volunteer Meagan Stewart said the event will offer something for everyone.

Find that perfect gift and support a local charity

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Individuals looking for the perfect gift for that special someone won't want to miss the One Stop Christmas Shop.

The one-day shopping event will be held Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All of the proceeds will benefit the Niagara Area Children's Assistance Program, a Fort Erie-based charity that helps families across Niagara that are in need.

Organizer Amanda Plato said the event will give local businesses a chance to showcase their items "in an indoor market-like event."

Shoppers will be pick up a variety of items, which includes

everything from handmade home décor, jewellery, pet treats and children's items.

"This is our first year running this event. We have received positive responses from those that have heard about the event," Plato said.

The event was "designed to fill a gap in services offered in (Fort Erie)."

"Many shoppers love to support local small businesses but don't have the time to visit several locations," Plato explained. "This will be a one-stop shop where people can find gifts for everyone on their list."

Admission to the One Stop Christmas Shop is free. For more information visit www.nacap.ca.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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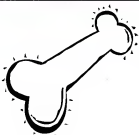


Joseph Burd Special to The Times

Meteors fell 4-1 to Blackhawks

The Fort Erie Meteors fell 4-1 to the Thorold Blackhawks Saturday night at the Fort Erie Leisureplex. In this photo, Dakota Miskolczy attempted to score on Thorold's net.

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events

DECEMBER 1

Fort Erie Public Library
Family Time with the Parent and Family Literacy Council: Join us for an interactive and fun story adventure, presented in partnership with the Parenting and Family Literacy Centre! Stories, songs, rhymes and stories, plus activities and playtime for all ages - babies on up. Free. Drop-in. Centennial branch. 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 8

Stevensville memorial hall
Niagara Men's Chorus performs a "Different Sort of Christmas": The Niagara Men's Chorus returns to perform wonderful music for us. They will sing popular numbers such as "Seize the Day" from Newsies, and will also include traditional Christmas favorites, and a few parodies of familiar holiday tunes. Their concert will be followed by seasonal refreshments, all for just \$5. The

concert is presented with the help of the
Greater Niagara Music Legacy. 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 11

Foot Erie Public Library
Holiday Music with Garrison Road School: A one hour presentation of seasonal music, performed by students of Garrison Road School under the direction of Mrs. Eve Anderson and Mrs. Rachel Gracey. Free and open to the public. Centennial branch, 11 a.m.

ONGOING

Fort Erie Public Library
Writers' Club: Library staffer and published author Derek Clendenning offers tips and advice to writers of all ages, teen through senior. He gives challenges and homework, too, to get you started. Bring your work; bring your questions. Free. Centennial branch. 6:30 p.m.

Fort Erie Public Library
Homework Help: An after-school pro-

gram where volunteer tutors work with students in grades K - 8, helping them with homework, teaching them study skills, and building their confidence. This program is free. **Office of Con-**

tennis and Crystal Ridge branches. To volunteer, to register your child, or for more information, please contact Justine Burnside at jburnside@fepi.ca or 905-871-2546 ext. 311.



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A look back
at the week
in Niagara

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Special to Postmedia Network

The Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils defeated the Saint Francis Phoenix 17-6 to win the Niagara Junior A high school football title.

Blue Devils win junior A football title

Connor Dorion
Special to Postmedia Network

The Beast was a beauty last Wednesday night in the Niagara Junior A football final at Kluwinski Field in St. Catharines. Grade 9 running back Colin Howe rumbled his way to a pair of touchdowns in a 17-6 victory for the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils over the Saint Francis Phoenix.

"On the announcements at my school, they actually started calling me Colin (The Beast) Howe," the 5-foot-10, 223-pounder said, with a laugh.

"It usually takes more than one guy to bring me down."

Ridgeway head coach John Swanigan was impressed by his entire team, but Howe was a stand-out on the blustery Wednesday night.

"Colin was like a freight train," the coach said, about Howe's performance. "He just didn't give up, like the whole team didn't give up."

Alex Payne scored the lone touchdown for Saint Francis in the contest, hauling in a catch from quarterback Ethan Reid in the fourth quarter to

give the Phoenix fans hope, but the team was unable to get anything going offensively following the score.

The Blue Devils finished the regular season with a record of 5-1, with its only loss coming to the Phoenix.

"We started off the season 1-0," Swanigan said. "Then we played Saint Francis the second game and they took it to us, but since then we haven't lost a game and the kids have responded well."

"They had a great season, I couldn't ask for anything more." Saint Francis had a similar

season, tying the Blue Devils and the Centennial Cougars, with 5-1 records.

The Phoenix were able to take down the Devils in the regular season, but Phoenix defensive coach Mike Girardo explained that they were a completely team this time around.

"We played them so early in the year. We played our two hardest games the first and second games so we knew that they were going to develop just as we were," Girardo said, after the defeat. "I think they had some harder matches

later on which may have tested them a little more, and I think that was one thing that may have hurt us."

"If we would have played them in Week 4, we would've seen more of what they were able to do."

The District School Board of Niagara junior football league is split into two separate divisions, AA which includes the more populated schools, and a newly formed A division that gives the smaller schools a chance to shine against other schools of similar number of students.

Coaches of both teams were impressed about how well the new league was run this season.

"It started off as just a develop league, where we would develop the kids and try to get something going," Girardo said. "By the end of the year we've taken development off of it and now it's single A, it's junior single A."

"To us, to Ridgeway, to all these other teams, these other schools that have been able to put together a team, we did it, we can now have a legit league going and it's great."

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**Brick for not recognizing
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A brick for a grocery store in Fort Erie not to recognize Remembrance Day on November 11th. It was very sad that there was

no moment of silence to remember the soldiers who fought for us and the ones that continue too. Do you not realize you would not be business owners to a chain grocery store if it wasn't for the soldiers that fought in the front lines for your future and freedom? Shame on you and not only to your staff but the owners who were present in the store that day. I guess business as usual for you. You need to get your ducks in order or should I say your bananas! So disappointing!

Bouquet for retail staff
A great big bouquet for all the retail people out there who "tolerate" the sometimes impatient consumers—remember, they have families to go home to each and every night too.

Bouquet for Ridgeway man
A bouquet for a Ridgeway man in a grey truck who provided necessary light from his headlights to assist us in finding a missing item previously lost on our walk. We want to thank him for his shining light in the darkness.

Bouquet of thanks
A big thank you to the community members, friends and family who came out to support the Ridgeway Crystal Beach Comedy and Pasta

Dinner, Saturday, November 7. Your support, and donations to the Kinsmen Gift of Love were greatly appreciated.

Brick for not hiring local
A brick for any club or organization that hosts events here in Fort Erie but do not hire local caterers. Shame on you.

**Brick for drivers who park
where they aren't allowed**

A brick for the people who continually park in places where they are not supposed to. If people continue to park in our exit, we will have to put up a 'no parking sign' and have cars towed when we shouldn't need to.

Brick for people who litter
A brick for the litterbugs who like to smash beer bottles and leave you empty beer cans in our parking lot. If you could refrain from doing so that would be great. Thanks.

Brick for a driver
A brick for the person who pulled out in front of my vehicle and made me slam on my brakes. Then you proceeded to drive 20 km under the speed limit. You are not a very good driver—I hope you realize this. Pay attention when behind the wheel or someone will get hurt.

**Bouquet for young man who
returned a phone**

A bouquet for the young man who found my son's phone on the side of the road and was honest enough to want to return it to the rightful owner. Thank you for your kindness and willingness to personally give it to me. Your employer should be proud as well to have you as a caring individual. Continue showing your good character in all you

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 Peoples Memorial United Church
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Wednesday, December 9th, 2015
 Music of the season 6:30pm
 Memorial Service 7:00pm
 St. Paul's Anglican Church
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 Refreshments to follow

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PELLERIN-EMOND, Jeanne - Jeanne Marie Pellerin-Emond born on June 23, 1927 and passed away peacefully on November 21, 2015 at Oakwood Park Lodge, Niagara Falls. Loving mother of Danny of Montreal, Alain of Fort Erie, Paul of Ridgeway, Rene of St. Catharines, and Mark (Teresa) of Ridgeway. Predeceased by son Richard "Butch" and daughter Lorraine Emond Murphy and their family Larry Emond. Jeanne is survived by many grandchildren, nephews, nieces, siblings and relatives and friends. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgeway entrusted with arrangements. Visitation was held on Tuesday November 24th from 11 am to 12 noon. A service to celebrate Jeanne's life followed at the funeral home at 12 o'clock. Interment took place at Ridgeway Memorial Cemetery. For those who wish memorial donations may be to the charity of your choice.

WADOWCZYK, Julia Kathleen - Passed away suddenly on Sunday, November 15th, 2015 at her residence at the age of 53. Beloved mother of Maria and James Kasprisk. Former spouse of Dean Kasprisk. Loving daughter of Merril Jones. She is predeceased by her father Zygmunt Wadowczyk. Much loved sister of Susan Sennuck (J. Brian Zaharia), Mikael Wadowczyk, Carol Wadowczyk (John Gursky). Cherished Aunt of Nicole, Stephanie, David and Derek and her great-nephews and great-nieces. Cremation has taken place. The family will receive visitors at the **GEORGE DARTE FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 945 Carlton Street, St. Catharines on Thursday, November 26th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. A Celebration of Julia's Life will follow on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the funeral home chapel. Memorial donations to the Fort Erie O.S.P.C.A. would be appreciated by the family. On-Line Guest Book - www.georgedartefuneralhome.com

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